

# Citywide Skatepark Planning Process

---



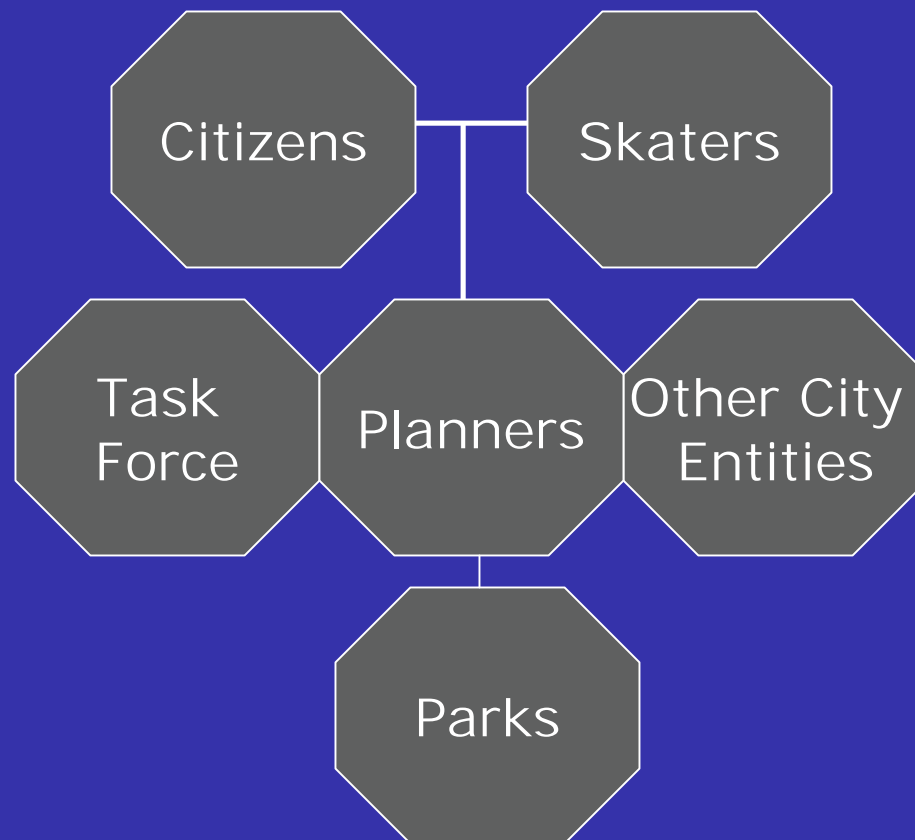
# How'd we get here?

---

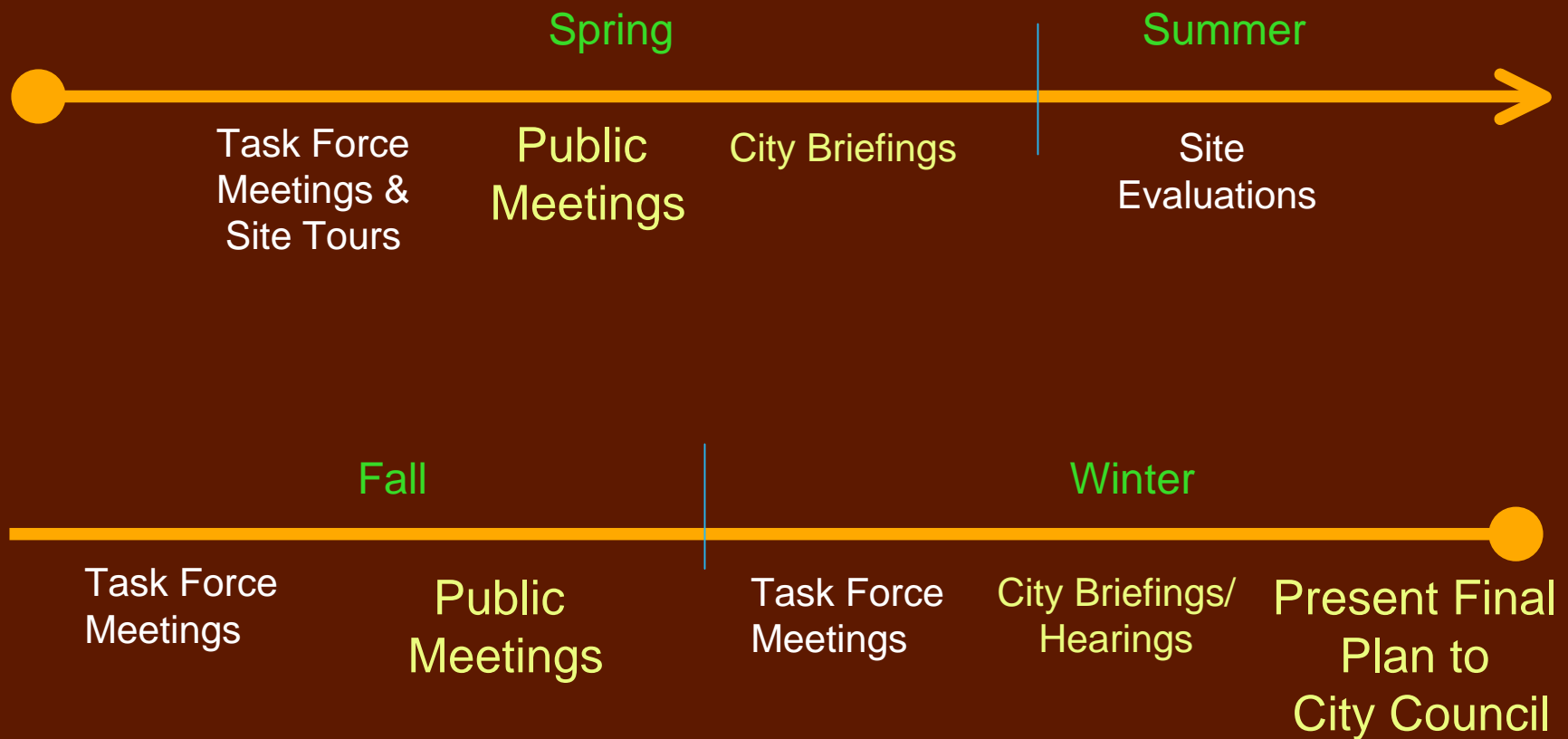
- 2003 - City recognized growing popularity of skateboarding
- Locating skateparks is a sensitive process
- City wants comprehensive plan with public involvement



# Who's involved?



# Timeline



# Let's Talk About Skateboarding

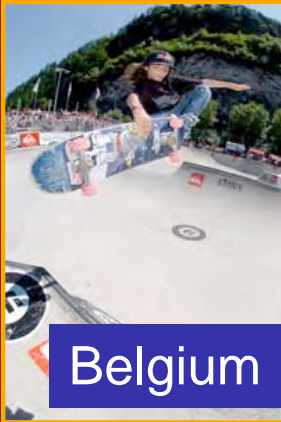
---



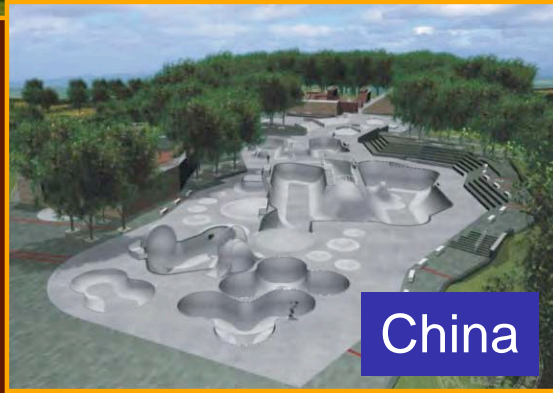
# Skateboarding's Popularity



Oregon



Belgium



China

- In 2004 1800 skateparks world-wide
  - 1/2 in the U.S.
- Over 100 each in OR & WA
  - Portland planning for 19
  - 4 in Seattle (2 public, 2 private)

# Who are skateboarders?





# Benefits of Skateboarding

- Alternative to expensive organized sports & good for those who don't want to play on a team
- Promotes physical fitness & self-esteem
- Build bonds between generations
- Creates a safe, integrated space for youth and observers - fosters positive interaction





# Existing Skate Facilities



PARKS

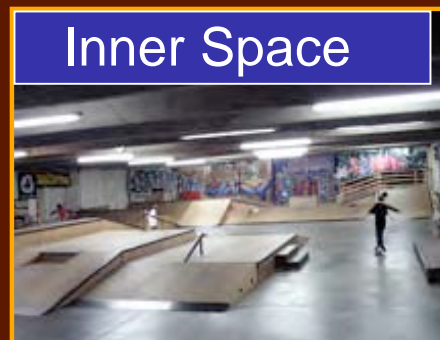
Ballard Bowl

## OTHER



Photo courtesy of Micha Shapiro

Marginal Way



Inner Space



Seattle Center

# Planned Skate Facilities

## PARKS PLANNED

Jefferson Park



Lower Woodland



Dahl Skatespot



River City Skatepark



Roosevelt Skatespot

## OTHER PLANNED

# Task Force Accomplishments Phase I

---



# The Task Force



- Visited existing skateparks
- Established a system of sizes of skateparks
- Drafted site criteria

# A System of Skate Options





# SKATEDOTS

## Integrated Skateable Terrain



- Small skateable elements
  - Along paths
  - Part of streetscape
  - In Parks
  - Approx. 20 square feet
  - Already skated
  - Safety enhancements



# SKATESPOTS

## 1,500 - to less than 10,000 sq. ft.



Donald, OR 2,500 sq. ft.



Photo: cour

Milton 10,000 - photo courtesy of Dan Hughes

- Up to 13 users at a time
- Narrow range of skill abilities and terrain



Single Tennis Court	Full-court Basketball 4,200 sq. ft.	Half-court basketball 2,100 sq. ft.
7,300 sq. ft.		

# DISTRICT

## 10,000 - to less than 30,000 sq. ft.

---



Double tennis  
court  
13,200 sq. ft.



- Up to 13- 20 users at one time
- Wider range of skill abilities and terrain

# REGIONAL

## Above 30,000 sq. ft.



Denver 60,000 sq. ft.

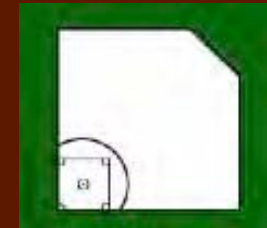
- Could accommodate 50-300 users at a time
- All styles of terrain
- All skill abilities
- Regional competitions



Football Field  
57,600 sq. ft



Soccer Field  
51,500 sq. Ft.



Little League  
Baseball field  
39,000 sq. ft.

# Framework for Site Selection Criteria

---

- Sites will not:
  - replace/remove existing active uses (ex. Ball fields, basketball courts)
  - impact environmentally sensitive areas
- Sites will:
  - have adequate area available for appropriate size facility
  - Be distributed equitably throughout the city
- Criteria were developed for the benefit of neighborhoods and skateboarders equally

# Developed Site Selection Criteria

- Seattle Skateboard Park Policy
- Portland, OR siting criteria
- National siting criteria

Revised Criteria DRAFT	
<b>Skatedots</b>	Integrated Skateable Terrain up to 1,500 sq. ft.
Skatedots (unique criterion, not applicable to other typologies) seek to seamlessly integrate skateable terrain both into small neighborhood parks and throughout the city's non-park areas by identifying existing spaces that already are or that could be used for skating	
<b>Skatespots</b>	1,500 - 10,000 sq. ft.
Are compatible with existing uses (ex. Near an active area of the park rather than contemplative space), consider adjacent uses, and adjacent landscaping/surfaces are compatible with safe skate surfaces.	
Limit off-site impacts to residential communities as consistent with city code, i.e. noise and lighting	
Allow for clear, passive observation by parents, emergency services, police and the public	
Are in close proximity to public transit, and have good foot, bike and vehicular access	
Are easily developable and have minimal construction impediments	
Allow for the creation of a safe and secure environment; providing for separation from vehicular traffic, vehicular and pedestrian access, and ease of routine maintenance	
Are located in a highly visible area with moderate to high pedestrian traffic, in an existing or new multi-purpose park, or in close proximity to other public facilities.	
Can be integrated into a larger park space that provides other park amenities	
Consider sun and shade and protection from rain and wind	
Include a space for size appropriate community viewing	
Consider the environment for the well-being of skateboarders, including noise and air quality	
<b>District Skateparks</b>	10,000 - 30,000 sq. ft.
<b>ALL criteria listed above, plus:</b>	
Offer adequate separation from other facilities/program at site	
Are in close proximity to water fountain, trashcans, restroom	
Offer potential space for nearby action-oriented sports activities and events, such as BMX or climbing	
Include the possibility of lighting, or integration with existing lighting	
Have expansion potential	
Have access to adequate parking	
<b>Regional Skateparks</b>	greater than 30,000 sq. ft.
<b>ALL criteria listed above, plus:</b>	
Promote action oriented sports activities and events	
Have the capacity for concessions	

# Task Force Accomplishments Phase 2

---





# Accomplishments



- Hosted 3 public meetings in June & Parks Open House at Ballard Commons
  - Discussed ideas/concerns
  - Asked for sites nominations
- Evaluated 130 nominated sites

# What the Task Force Heard

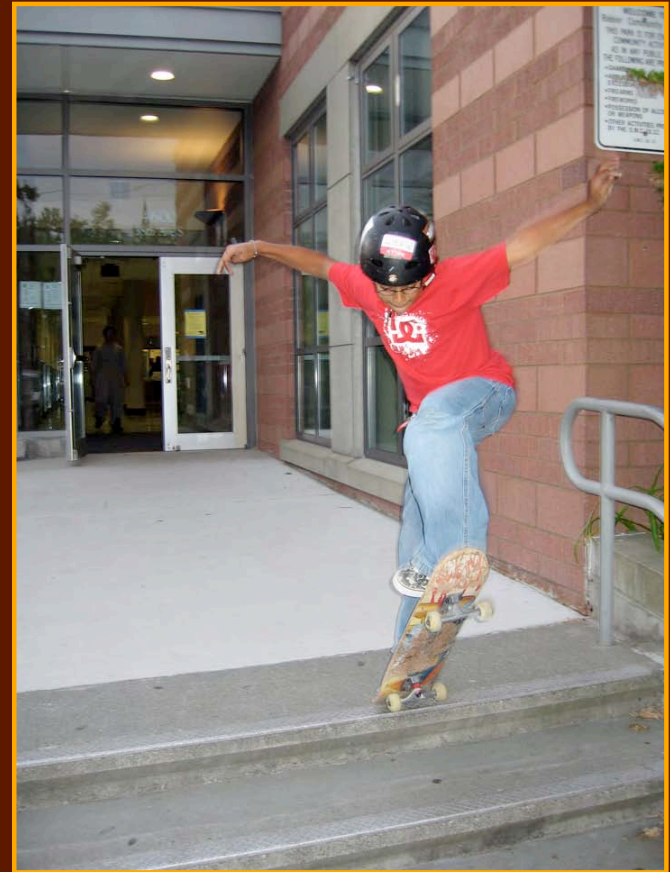
---

- Majority supports skateparks
- Consider Skateboarding in Future Parks
- Need !/?
- Concern about losing passive open space



# The Need for Skateparks

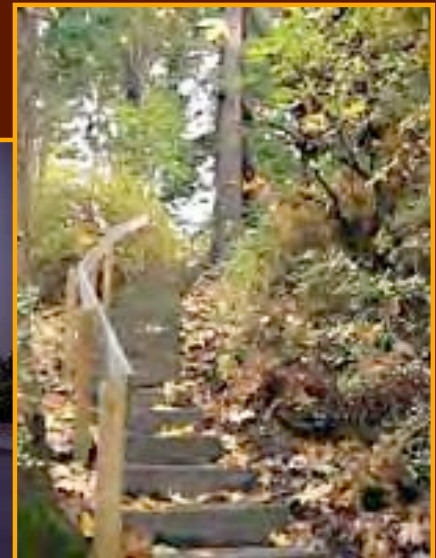
- Seek to distribute equitably throughout the city as with all other park facilities
- 20 year plan



# Potential Loss of passive Open Space

## Adjusted Framework

- Emphasis will be given to sites that are 'gray-to-gray', e.g. asphalt or other paving material exists
- Proposed sites will not:
  - Be sited in designated environmentally critical areas, natural areas or designated greenbelts





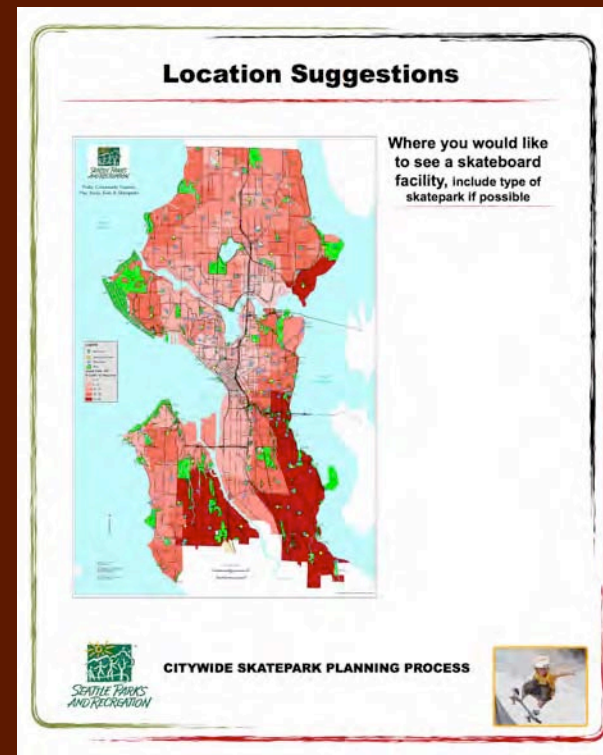
# Additional Framework Revisions

- Proposed sites will not:
  - Interrupt planning projects underway or infringe upon recently completed projects, e.g. Pro Parks Levy and NMF projects
  - Be sited on Private property



# Gathered Site Suggestions

- The community at large
- Task Force members
- Parks
- Port of Seattle
- Seattle Public Utilities
- Seattle Department of Transportation





# Site Evaluations

- Evaluated over 130 sites



# Skatespot/Baseline Criteria

---

- Compatible with existing uses
- Safe & Secure
- Accessible
- Limits off site impacts
- Allow for observation
- Highly visible area



# Additional DISTRICT Criteria

- Possible lighting
- Close to amenities
- Potential for nearby action sports
- Adequate separation
- Expansion potential
- Parking



# Additional REGIONAL Criteria

---

- Concessions
- Promote action oriented sports



# 30 Sites to Consider

- 8 Skatedots
- 12 Skatespots
- ★ 4 District
- ▲ 1 Regional
- ◆ 5 Future Park Sites





# A few of words of Explanation

---

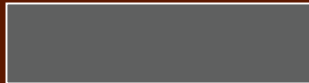
## 1 Park N Ride Lot

- being acquired by Parks -
- once funding provided a planning process w/ neighborhood will commence to determine the nature of the park



## 4 Reservoir Sites

- SPU beginning to cover w/ lids
- Currently no funding to develop sites into parks
- If/when funds become available to develop sites into parks - there will be a full public planning process to establish design and use of these spaces



Indicates “gray-to-gray”



# Northwest

---

## ● 3 Skatedots



# Northeast

2 Skatespots



3 Future Park Sites



1 Regional



Lake City Playground



Cowen Park



Northgate Park & Ride



Maple Leaf Reservoir



Roosevelt Reservoir



Magnuson

# Central City

● 4 Skatedots

■ 3 Skatespots



# Southwest

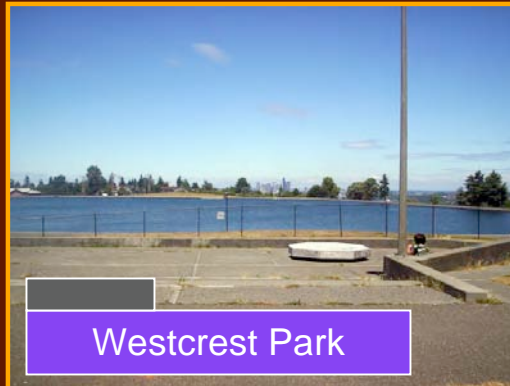
- 1 Skatedot
- 4 Skatespots





# Southwest con't

- ★ 2 District
- ◆ 2 Future Park Sites





# Southeast

■ 2 Skatespots

★ 2 District



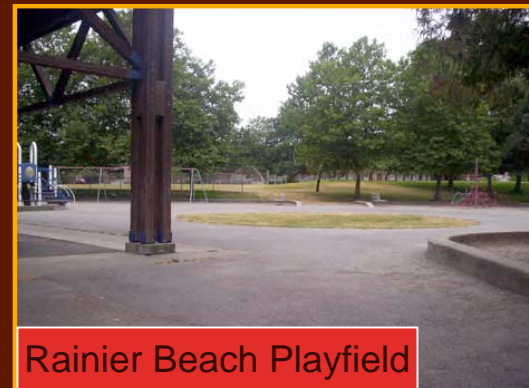
Brighton Playfield



John C. Little Park



Genesee Playfield



Rainier Beach Playfield

# We want your feedback

---







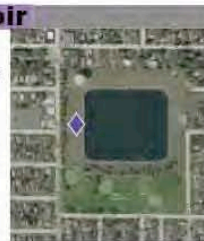
### Maple Leaf Reservoir

#### Site Characteristics

On-site uses: Currently a reservoir site which will be lidded in 2013 • Future Park site with potential for skate facility in larger park • No current plans for site • "Gray to gray" • Site allows for clear, passive observation • Close proximity to public transit

#### Adjacencies

Single-family housing north and east. Maple Leaf Playfield and playarea south, neighborhood commercial west.



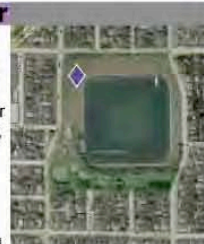
### Roosevelt Reservoir

#### Site Characteristics

On-site uses: On-site uses: Currently a reservoir site which will be lidded in 2013 • Future Park site with potential for skate facility in larger park • No current plans for site • "Gray to gray" • Site allows for clear, passive observation • Close proximity to public transit

#### Adjacencies

Single-family housing to east, west, & north. Froula Playground south



### Lake City Playground

#### Site Characteristics

On-site uses: playarea, basketball court, picnic area, perimeter pathway • Allows for clear, passive observation • Safe & Secure for pedestrians and vehicle access • Visible area with moderate pedestrian traffic • Close proximity to single family housing

#### Adjacencies

Multi-family south and east, commercial area to east buffered by trees. Library, community center and school one block away across 125th.



### Cowen Park

#### Site Characteristics

On-site uses: playarea, softball field, restrooms • Clear passive observation • Safe & Secure for pedestrians and vehicular access • Good public transportation • Olmsted influenced park on a major boulevard

#### Adjacencies

Park space to north and east, single-family west, and neighborhood commercial and multi-family south.



### Northgate Park & Ride Lot

#### Site Characteristics

On-site uses: Currently used as a Metro King County Park & Ride Lot • Future park site • Allows for clear passive observation • Safe & Secure for pedestrians and vehicular access • Good public transportation, including future lightrail • Highly visible • High pedestrian traffic • "Gray-to-gray"

#### Adjacencies

Multi-family west, north and east. Big box development (Target, Best Buys, GI Joe, etc.) south. Northgate Mall is one block south of development). Community center several blocks south



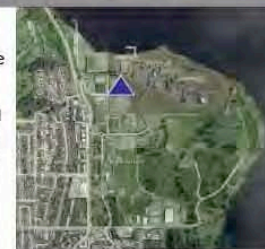
### Warren G. Magnuson Park - Bldg 2

#### Site Characteristics

On-site uses: Bldg 2 currently used for indoor sports, but those activities are moving to the building just northwest. The Seattle mountaineer organization is moving into the building just west of the site and building an outdoor climbing wall • Existing and growing sports complex • Room for concessions • Existing parking lot • Safe & secure for pedestrians and vehicular access • Good proximity to public transportation • "Gray-to-gray"

#### Adjacencies

See above. East & South is park. West across 4 lanes of traffic and parking lot is multi-family.





# Let's look the at info



## Site Characteristics:

On-site: playarea, basketball court, picnic area, perimeter pathway \* Allows for clear, passive observation \* Safe and secure for pedestrians \* Visible area with moderate pedestrian traffic \* Close proximity to single-family housing

## Adjacencies:

Multi-family south and east, commercial area to east buffered by trees. Library, community center and school one block away across 125th



# What's Next?

---



# Decision Process

---

- Task Force recommends sites at:
  - Park Board Briefing
    - Dec. 14
      - Public Hearing
- Parks Board recommends sites to Parks Superintendent
  - Jan 11
- Parks & Executive recommends sites to City Council
  - Late January
- City Council possibly adopts proposed sites

# It's Up to You!

- Building skateparks will occur over time
- SkatePark Advisory Committee (SPAC) recipe
- Communities can apply for grants
- Once funded each site design will have a public process



# Question & Answer

---



THANK YOU!

---